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MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
November 26, 1996

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, November 26, 1996, in the Board Room at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Rocky Medrano, Vice Chair, Dewayne Naumann, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Phil Friday, Hermelinda Zamarripa, Marianne Dwight, Mrs. Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kendall Moss, Deputy Director, Mary Ybarbo, Stuart Strong, Warren Struss, Otis Williams, Jim Halbrook, Heather Griffith Peterson, Peter Marsh.

A. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 12, 1996 meeting were approved.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Leonard Lyons approached the Board about keeping the conditions of the contract with Austin Aqua Fest.

Doug Johnston spoke before the Board and expressed some concerns about the new construction of the Zilker Train tracks.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Kendall Moss, Deputy Director, presented the Board with an update on the traffic issue at Pease Park. He and Warren Struss, Park Police Administrator, met with 26 people who live near the park to address the traffic issue. They were informed that PARD staff has been meeting with representatives from Public Works, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to develop several options that would help alleviate this problem. PARD has decided to set up a pilot/test program in the spring that would barricade major portions of Parkway Drive and measure the effects on traffic in the adjacent neighborhood.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Approve Park Improvements on Undeveloped Parkland along Shoal Creek Greenbelt

Peter Marsh, staff engineer, informed the Board that the Land and Facilities Committee has reviewed this issue and has made a recommendation that the department accept a trail easement from Mr. Roy Butler and Whole Foods Market. In addition, to accept the proposal by GSD&M to improve a small piece of parkland along the Shoal Creek Greenbelt with two picnic tables, a trash receptacle and landscaping and construct a new section of trail at the intersection of West 9th Street and Henderson. This would be in accordance with the requirements of the DC Downtown Creeks combining district which promotes public accessibility and pedestrian use along downtown creeks.

Dewayne Naumann moved to accept the recommendation of the Land and Facilities Committee. Rocky Medrano seconded. The vote was 8-0-0 to accept (Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Marianne Dwight, Hermelinda Zamarripa, Dewayne Naumann, Rosemary Castleberry, Rocky Medrano, Elaine Carter, Phil Friday)

Make Recommendation to Council Regarding Status of Austin Aqua Festival

Jesus M. Olivares, Director, informed the Board that a memo has been sent to Mayor and Council making it known that a notice of material breach has been sent to Sheena Hickman, President of Austin Aqua Festival. The letter was hand delivered today to Ms. Hickman. The agreement with Aqua Festival requires that this notice be sent in a timely fashion in order to effect the 1997 festival. There was a payment of \$54,683 due on October 1, 1996 and the payment was not made. Aqua Festival has until December 9, 1996 to make this payment.

Ms. Hickman informed the Board that the Aqua Festival Board has met on a regular basis, is working to comply with the conditions of the contract, has met with the neighborhood people and is hoping to develop a strategy for bringing private funds to the program. She received the notice of material breach and her Board will respond.

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres made a recommendation that the Board take no action on this item at this meeting, wait until December 9th to hear from the Aqua Festival and then deal with the issue at the regularly scheduled Parks Board meeting of December 10th. Elaine Carter seconded. The vote was 7-0-1 to accept recommendation (Marianne Dwight, Hermelinda Zamarripa, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Rosemary Castleberry, Elaine Carter, Phil Friday, Rocky Medrano) (Dewayne Naumann abstained)

Approve Annual Concession Report

Otis Williams, Financial Analyst with Management Services, presented a progress report to the Board concerning concession revenues for the past year and noted that there was an increase overall in most concession revenues. He informed the Board that the Concession Committee is scheduled to meet in January 1997 and one item they will be reviewing is the flat rate versus the percentage of sales revenues. The Board is to make a recommendation to Council next month concerning the Concession Policies. There was no vote taken.

Make Recommendation to Council to Increase the Parks Maintenance Budget for 97-98

Phil Friday provided Board members with a memo that provides an outline for increased park maintenance funding for the 1997-98 budget year. He suggested that Board members meet with the various advisory board members from the recreation and senior centers to discuss the various needs of each facility and present a formal proposal/document to City Council during the next budget discussions.

There was no vote taken on this item.

(Marianne Dwight left at 8:05 p.m.)

Approve 1995-96 Annual Report

Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, had questions regarding 2 items on page 46 of the report. There is a listing for 1 sub-resolution, but the resolution is not listed and there were 3 exceptions noted in the Parkland Maintenance Task Force Report that should have been listed.

Dewayne Naumann made a motion to accept the 1995-96 Annual Report. Elaine Carter seconded. The vote to accept was 7-0-0 (Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Hermelinda Zamarripa, Dewayne Naumann, Rocky Medrano, Rosemary Castleberry, Elaine Carter, Phil Friday)

Discuss Holiday Meeting Schedules

Elaine Carter made a recommendation that the December 24, 1996, meeting be cancelled. Dewayne Naumann seconded. The vote to cancel was 7-0-0 (Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Hermelinda Zamarripa, Dewayne Naumann, Rocky Medrano, Rosemary Castleberry, Elaine Carter, Phil Friday)

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jesus M. Olivares, Director, reviewed the days and times of the upcoming Yule Fest. He informed the Board a copy of the City Facility Naming Ordinance was included in their agenda packets.

G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (not for action)

Dewayne Naumann announced the Navigation Committee will reconvene on December 2nd to revisit most of the items from the previous meeting.

Rosemary Castleberry informed the Board that 4 young men attended the Corpus Christi Silver Boxing Tournament and will be advancing to state finals.

At the December 10th Board meeting Jesus M. Olivares will give an update on the bond election and how it affects PARD.

H. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.